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RTD UPDATES: Foreign Landownership

Data updates for employees and colleagues of the Resources and Technology Division

Resources and Technology Division
Economic Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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U.S. Agricultural Land is About 1 Percent Foreign Owned in 1992

Foreign individuals and entities reported owning 14.5 million acres of U.S. agricultural land as of December 31, 1992, slightly more than 1 percent of the privately owned farm and forest land in the United States. This is a 2-percent decrease (237,661 acres) over the 1991 data but remains in the range of just above or below the 1-percent figure, where it has been since 1981.

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 required all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture as of February 1, 1979. Subsequent acquisitions and dispositions of such lands are reported to the Secretary on a transaction basis. This provides the Department with a continuing inventory of such ownership that is netted out at the end of each calendar year and reported to the President and the Congress.

Forest land accounts for 49 percent of the acreage, cropland for 17 percent, pasture and other agriculture for 31 percent, and agricultural land not in production for 3 percent. Foreign persons from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands Antilles, and Mexico account for 74 percent of the foreign-held acreage. Foreign persons from Japan own only 3 percent of the foreign-owned acreage.

Details appear in *Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 1992*, Statistical Bulletin No. 853, U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., May 1993. Tables and text in that report provide information by State, country of origin, type of owner, costs, values, method of acquisition, use, and tenure. Further information: J. Peter DeBraal, RTD (202) 219-0425.

Monthly Data Releases Planned

RTD UPDATES, published by the Resources and Technology Division, is a new series of monthly data highlights relating to agricultural resources, the environment, food safety, global change, and technology. Surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource conditions provide vital information to the RTD research program and are the source of these data highlights. **RTD UPDATES** gives readers recent data acquisitions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. This quick release of data should enhance your analytical efforts and decisions. Please contact the individual listed in the text of **RTD UPDATES** on the availability and timing of additional information. Different resource and technology issues are featured each month, depending on availability of data.

Trends in Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land by Type of Use, 1981-92

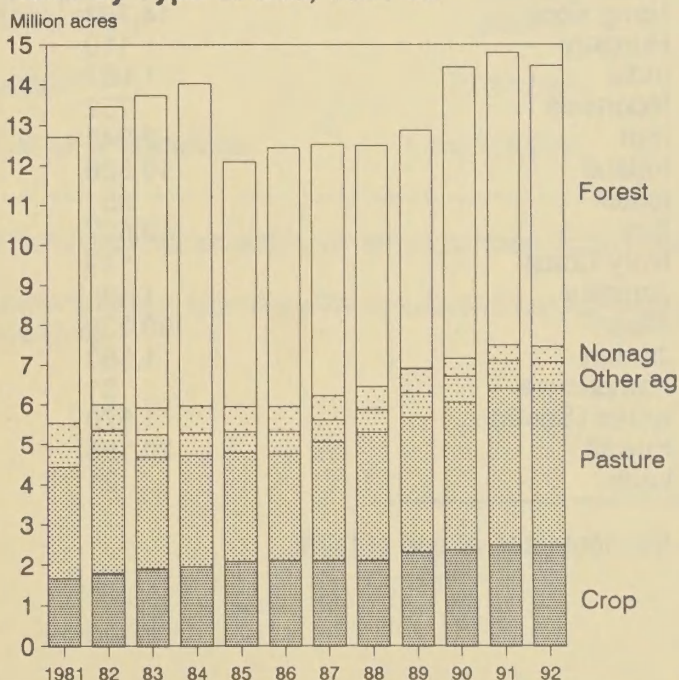


Table 1—U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1992

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	Number		Number
Interests excl. U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders:			
Argentina	13,394	Lebanon	13,114
Australia	5,431	Liberia	29,684
Austria	55,522	Liechtenstein	132,613
Bahamas	34,879	Luxembourg	3,976
Bahrain	313	Malaysia	7,948
Barbados	117	Mexico	174,587
Belgium	65,827	Morocco	1,035
Belize	549	Namibia	197
Bermuda	73,667	Netherlands	113,890
Bolivia	11	Netherlands Antilles	359,505
Brazil	5,262	New Zealand	463
British Virgin Islands	67,881	Nicaragua	1,378
Canada	1,691,157	Norway	5,393
Cayman Islands	22,984	Oman	454
Chile	1,582	Pakistan	2,168
China	496	Panama	165,182
Colombia	11,409	Peru	308
Costa Rica	13,419	Philippines	3,663
Cuba	20	Poland	147
Czechoslovakia	485	Portugal	1,306
Denmark	9,092	Russia	761
Dominican Republic	2,128	St. Vincent	2,637
Ecuador	976	Saudi Arabia	30,336
Egypt	2,134	Singapore	528
El Salvador	128	Somalia	11
France	87,277	South Africa	2,309
Gambia	294	Spain	3,716
Germany	742,360	Sweden	31,834
Greece	60,416	Switzerland	289,801
Guatemala	1,102	Syria	2,689
Guyana	35	Taiwan	7,873
Honduras	1,018	Tanzania	10,143
Hong Kong	14,763	Thailand	1,807
Hungary	110	Trinidad & Tobago	94
India	1,687	Turkey	38
Indonesia	752	Turks Islands	3,192
Iran	2,343	United Arab Emirates	3,930
Ireland	10,526	United Kingdom	1,808,004
Israel	951	Uruguay	10,807
Italy	82,527	Venezuela	22,430
Ivory Coast	119	Vietnam	152
Jamaica	1,631	Yugoslavia	1,023
Japan	199,339	Zimbabwe	230
Jordan	1,580		
Kampuchea	31	Multiple ¹	55,861
Korea (South)	1,570	Third tier ²	69,204
Kuwait	20,156		
Laos	31	Subtotal ³	6,686,902

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Table 1—U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1992—Continued

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	Number		Number
U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders		US/Kuwait	8,330
US/Andorra	3,741	US/Lebanon	703
US/Argentina	4,255	US/Liberia	26,733
US/Australia	1,287	US/Libyan Arab Republic	280
US/Austria	19,935	US/Liechtenstein	87,109
US/Bahamas	70,683	US/Luxembourg	233,655
US/Barbados	41	US/Malaysia	300
US/Belgium	76,838	US/Mexico	354,880
US/Bermuda	38,728	US/Netherlands	321,489
US/Brazil	12,847	US/Netherlands Antilles	219,401
US/Brit. Virgin Islands	15,998	US/New Hebrides	2,991
US/Canada	1,690,048	US/New Zealand	47,010
US/Cayman Islands	12,271	US/Nicaragua	282
US/Chile	9,929	US/Norway	9,709
US/China	15,589	US/Panama	145,586
US/Colombia	10,154	US/Peru	1,253
US/Costa Rica	407	US/Philippines	7,793
US/Denmark	6,998	US/Portugal	1,683
US/Ecuador	1,632	US/Qatar	219
US/Egypt	1,963	US/Saudi Arabia	10,543
US/El Salvador	607	US/South Africa	2,573
US/Finland	2,369	US/Spain	4,574
US/France	1,095,389	US/Sweden	6,100
US/Germany	677,867	US/Switzerland	326,466
US/Greece	5,249	US/Taiwan	17,029
US/Guatemala	412	US/Thailand	252
US/Guyana	334	US/Trinidad & Tobago	20
US/Honduras	37	US/Turkey	443
US/Hong Kong	131,379	US/United Arab Emirates	2,627
US/Indonesia	544	US/United Kingdom	1,176,170
US/Iran	1,861	US/Uruguay	618
US/Iraq	800	US/Venezuela	39,572
US/Ireland	4,655	US/Multiple	176,656
US/Italy	20,861	US/Third Tier	385,747
US/Japan	277,326		
US/Jordan	150	Subtotal ⁴	7,832,097
US/Kenya	32		
US/Korea (South)	85	Total all landholdings	14,518,999

¹A report is processed as "multiple" when no single country predominates—for example, an equal partnership between a Canadian and a German.

²A report is processed as "third tier" if three or more levels of ownership are reported with no foreign interests stated.

³Total interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

⁴Total interest of U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

Table 2—U.S. agricultural landholdings of foreign owners, by State, December 31, 1992

State	Foreign-owned agricultural land	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land
	Acres		Acres		
Alabama	417,940	Louisiana	698,743	Oklahoma	53,495
Alaska	0	Maine	2,545,212	Oregon	733,236
Arizona	330,068	Maryland	51,828	Pennsylvania	70,821
Arkansas	190,400	Massachusetts	1,884	Puerto Rico	839
California	918,724	Michigan	204,617	Rhode Island	0
Colorado	585,161	Minnesota	214,177	South Carolina	193,114
Connecticut	881	Mississippi	514,396	South Dakota	42,506
Delaware	5,870	Missouri	86,637	Tennessee	173,782
Florida	571,548	Montana	574,432	Texas	1,086,754
Georgia	579,513	Nebraska	77,219	Utah	46,973
Guam	0	Nevada	162,607	Vermont	117,612
Hawaii	179,321	New Hampshire	220,064	Virginia	117,428
Idaho	22,357	New Jersey	19,189	Washington	387,447
Illinois	185,828	New Mexico	836,748	West Virginia	105,337
Indiana	81,403	New York	270,736	Wisconsin	24,295
Iowa	32,127	North Carolina	230,355	Wyoming	175,348
Kansas	78,465	North Dakota	29,474		
Kentucky	95,597	Ohio	176,491	Total	14,518,999

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